

PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS FOR DONEPEZIL

You have been started on a new medication today, called donepezil. You should begin taking a 5 mg tablet once daily. After one month, you should increase to 10 mg once daily.

How does this medicine work?

This medicine works by increasing the concentration of a substance in the brain called acetylcholine, which is involved in memory, attention, mood and behavior.

Possible side effects

This medicine is well tolerated by the majority of patients. But like all medications, there are potential side effects. Some of the most common are reviewed here. Please contact us with any problems.

- About 1 in 10 patients experience a loss of appetite, loose stools or an increase in frequency of bowel movements, or nausea. Rarely, there can be vomiting.
- About 1 in 15 patients experience vivid dreams.
- About 1 in 100 patients experience an increase in saliva, runny nose, or muscle cramps.
- About 1 in 1000 patients experience slowing of the heart, which can cause one to feel faint, or to faint.
- After you have been on the 10 mg dose for 1 month, you should have an EKG performed by your primary care provider.

Patient follow-up

2-3 month clinical follow-up with your VA Provider.